

## Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 AID-05

EB-07 /086 W

----- 104330

R 202052Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2574

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, SO, XF

SUBJECT: SOMALI SHEIKHS RECEIVED DEATH SENTENCES

1. SUMMARY. GSDR SENTENCED TEN MOSLEM SHEIKHS TO DEATH JAN. 18-19 AND TWENTY-TWO TO LONG PRISON TERMS DUE TO THEIR OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION TO RECENT RUDR PROCLAMATION THAT SOMALI WOMEN HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS DESPITE KORAN. SOME ANTI-SIAD SENTIMENTS WIDELY EXPRESSED IN MOGADISCIO MOSQUES ON FRIDAY, JAN. 17, AND WHOLESale ARRESTS OF SOMALI SHEIKHS FOLLOWED. NUMBER OF EGYPTIAN SHEIKHS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA AND GSDR'S RELATIONS WITH MORE CONSERVATIVE ARAB STATES -- PARTICULARLY LIBYA, KUWAIT,

AND SAUDI ARABA -- WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SUFFER. DISAFFECTION OF POPULATION

SERIOUSLY ENHANCED, AND, IF EXECUTIONS CARRIED OUT, THERE COULD  
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BE REAL DANGER OF SOME ATTEMPT ON SIAD'S LIFE. END SUMMARY.

2. SIAD'S RELATIONS WITH CONSERVATIVE ISLAM, WHICH HAVE BEEN SHAKY BECAUSE OF HIS TIEYMTO USSR AND HIS ADVOCACY OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM, TOOK SUDDEN TURN FOR WORSE ON SAT. JAN. 11 WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THAT SOMALI WOMEN WOULD HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS WITH NSN IN LOCAL POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND DOMESTIC LIFE. SIAD SPEECH ALSO NOTED THAT GSDR DECISION COINCIDED WITH DESIGNATION OF 1975 AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. IN HIS JAN. 11 SPEECH SIAD SAID EQUALITY OF SEXES IS CONSISTENT WITH PRINCIPLES OF "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM". HE SAID KORAN'S INJUNCTIONS TO CONTRARY WERE CORRECT FOR PERIOD IN WHICH IT WRITTEN, BUT BEING MISUED BY MODERN-DAY CONSERVATIVES.

7.RESULTANT TENSIONS BETWEEN STATE AND ISLAMIC LEADERS CULMINATED ON FRIDAY JAN. 17 WHEN SHEIKHS AT NUMBER OF MOGADISCIO MOSQUES DELIVERED SERMONS WHICH WERE INTERPRETED AS ANTI-SIAD. AT LOCAL ABDUL KADIR MOSQUE, EGYPTIAN SHEIKH'S FRIDAY SERMON APPARENTLY DREW SUBTLE PARALLEL BETWEEN DROUGHT AND DISEASE SUFFERED BY DISBELIEVERS IN MOHAMMED'S DAY AND CURRENT SITUATION IN SOMALIA. A LOCAL SOMALI SHEIKH ADDRESSED THE CROWD IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS AND REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR PRESIDENT SIAD TO STEP DOWN.

GSDR POLICE AND SECURITY ARRESTED SHEIKHS SAME DAY. WE UNDERSTAND ALSO THOSE MOSQUES WHERE ANTI-GOVERNMENT SPEECHES WERE HEARD HAVE BEEN CLOSED DOWN.

4. AS OF JAN. 19, GSDR NATIONAL SECURITY COURT (NSC) HAS SENTENCED TEN RPT TEN MOSLEM SHEIKHS AND NOVICES TO DEATH BY FIRING SQUAD AFTER THEY WERE FOUND GUILTY OF OPPOSING RECENT SRC DECISION ON WOMENS RIGHTS. FIVE OTHERS HAVE ALSO RECEIVED 30 YEAR SENTENCES; SEVENTEEN, 20 YEAR SENTENCES; AND 1 MAN HAS BEEN ACQUITTED. ADDITIONAL SENTENCINGS ARE EXPECTED.

5. OCTOBER STAR EDITION OF JAN. 19 REPORTED THAT CONDEMNED MEN HAD BEEN CLOSELY WATCHED SINCE '69 REVOLUTION AND WERE ON QTE PAYMENT VOUCHERS OF CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES UNQTE. OCTOBER STAR SAID GSDR THUS HAS PVBOF THAT SHEIKHS WERE QTE TOOLS OF FOREIGN INTERESTS UNQTE. WE BELIEVE STAR WAS REFERRING PRINCIPALLY TO EGYPTIAN SHEIKHS. APPROXIMATELY 30 ARE PRESENTLY IN COUNTRY, AND WE UNDERSTAND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR WAS SUMMONED TO MOFA SUN. JAN. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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20 AND INFORMED THAT SEVERAL SHEIKHS WERE PERSONW NON GRATA. WE NOT YET SURE OF ACTUAL NUMBERS INVOLVED.

6. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHY SIAD CHOSE TO MAKE HIS WOMEN'S RIGHTS PRONOUNCEMENT AT THIS TIME, OR INDEED IF HE INTENDED TO LEGALLY IMPLEMENT HIS ASSURANCES AS APPLIED TO PROPERTY OR DIVORCE CODE. IT IS TRUE THAT REGIME HAS TRIED HARD, AND WITH SOME SUCESS, TO ENLIST WOMEN IN ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROJECTS AND FEELS THEY HAVE IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY

SIAD MAY HAVE WISHED TO ASSURE THEIR SUPPORT. WE ARE TOLD THAT SMALL GROUP OF SOMALI WOMEN ACTIVISTS HAD IMPORTUNED SIAD'S SUPPORT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS' STATEMENT AND HE OBLIGED.

7. IN ANY CASE, SIAD SEEMS TO HAVE SERIOUSLY MISJUDGED POTENTIAL REACTION. HIS CHAGRIN SURFACED BRIEFLY DURING HIS JAN. 18 CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN ANDERSON, WHEN HE SAID THAT RELIGION AND STATE SHOULD BE SEPARATE, WITH EACH INDIVIDUAL FREE TO PURSUE HIS OWN FAITH WITHIN LAWS OF STATE. LOCAL SHEIKHS, WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN ENAMORED OF GSDR POLITICAL ORIENTATION ANYWAY, SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW OUT IMPLICATIONS OF HIS STATEMENT IN RELIGIOUS TERMS.

8. GSDR DEATH SENTENCES -- WHETHER OR NOT CARRIED OUT -- AS WELL AS EXPULSION OF EGYPTIAN SHEIKHS, WILL CONFIRM WORST SUSPICIONS OF CONSERVATIVE ARAB LEAGUE STATES -- ESPEVALLY SAUDI ARABAIA, LIBYA AND KUWAIT -- WHOM GSDR HAS BEEN LOOKING TO FOR MORE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN PRO-SOMALI BROKERS IN THIS DIFFICULT PROCESS AND NOW SIAD IS APPARENTLY WELL ON HIS WAY TO ALIENATING EGYPT AS WELL. WE BELIEVE ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS WILL BE FORCED TO MAKE DEMARCHE TO GSDR; A DEMARCH WHICH, EVEN IF SUCCESSFUL IN LIFTING DEATH SENTENCES, WILL NOT REALLY DO MUCH TO REPAIR MANY ARAB DOUBTS ABOUT SIAD REGIME. ALL THIS COMES AT TIME WHEN SOMALI FONSEC TOURING ARAB CAPITALS IN SEARCH OF DROUGHT ASSISTANCE, AND IS SERIOUS TRACTICAL ERROR BY SIAD.

9. DISAFFECTION OF SOMALI PEOPLE HAS BEEN SIMILARLY INCREASED. TENSIONS APPEAR TO BE RUNNING HIGH IN MOGADISCIO AT PRESENT. WE HAVE HEARD THAT SOMALI MILITARY IS NOW ON ALERT, BUT THIS UNCONFIRMED. WHILE REGIME'S CONTROL OVER POPULATION SUFFICIENT TO DETER POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS, SO FAR, THERE WILL, IF SHEIKHS ACTUALLY EXECUTED, BE HEIGHTENED DANGER OF ATTEMPT ON SIAD'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIFE BY SOME MOSLEM FANATIC.  
KIRK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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